

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9191

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1. FOLLOWING PARAS KEYED TO PARA FIVE REFTEL:

(A) CURRENT RES REP HAS BEEN IN KOREA ONLY SINCE JANUARY; ONE OF TWO ASSISTANT RES REPS RECENTLY DEPARTED KOREA WITH REPLACEMENT SCHEDULED EARLY APRIL. HOWEVER, RECENTLY ARRIVED RES REP AND CURRENT STAFF APPEAR TO BE COMPETENT AND WE BELIEVE WILL PROVIDE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP FOR ALL UNDP ACTIVITIES IN KOREA, AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE THE LOCUS OF COORDINATION OF OTHER UN AGENCY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN KOREA. RES REP AND STAFF MAINTAIN CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ROKG
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COORDINATING ENTITY, I.E. THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY (MMOST), AND IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS WITH THE VARIOUS OTHER UN AGENCIES SUCH AS WFP, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, IMF, UNOTC, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, UNIDO, IAEA, WMO, AND IMCO, ALL OF WHOM HAVE REPRESENTATIVES OR CONSULTANTS OPERATING IN KOREA. UNDP AND IBRD ACTIVITIES, ALTHOUGH DIFFERENT IN BASIC CHARACTER, I.E., TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VIS-A-VIS CAPITAL ASSISTANCE, ARE EFFECTIVELY COORDINATED THROUGH MEETINGS OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP WHICH IS CHAIRED BY THE IBRD AND TO WHICH THE UNDP IS INVITED AS AN OBSERVER. RESREP OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE PLANS TO ATTEND THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 1975 IN PARIS. UNDP AND IBRD COORDINATION AND COOPERATION IS FURTHER DEMONSTRATED BY THE PROPOSED PLAN TO PROVIDE CONSULTANT/EXPERT ASSISTANCE TO THE ROKG IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN. UNDER THIS PROPOSED ACTIVITY, THE UN WOULD PROVIDE THE FUNDING OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 300,000 FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ROKG, WITH EXECUTION/IMPLEMENTATION TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE IBRD. THE UNDP STAFF VIEW THIS PROGRAM AS A CRITICAL MEANS TO AFFECT KOREAN DEVELOPMENT AT THE INITIAL CONCEPTUALIZATION/PLANNING STAGE. UNICEF ALSO PARTICIPATES IN UNDP PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES THROUGH UNICEF REP POSTED IN SEOUL.

(B) ANNUALLY THE UNDP COMPILES INFORMATION REGARDING MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO KOREA AND PUBLISHES A REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WHICH, INTER ALIA, PROVIDES A GENERAL SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE AND DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE ASSISTANCE ENDEAVORS. THE UNDP PROGRAM IN KOREAN IS COORDINATED WITH MOST, WHICH IS THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S ENTITY CHARGED WITH THE COORDINATION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN KOREA.

(C) THE UNDP RES REP MAINTAINS PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL COORDINATION WITH THE OTHER UN AGENCY REPS WORKING OUTSIDE THE USUAL REALM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IN THE CASE OF DISASTER RELIEF, THE WFP REP HAS DIRECT COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTIVITIES WHICH, WITH THE UNDP'S STANDING AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE UP TO DOLS 20,000 IN DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE, PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE CAPABILITY.

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(D) THE 1974 COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW WAS CONDUCTED FROM AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 1974, AND CULMINATED IN THE RES REPS 1974 ANNUAL REPORT OF DECEMBER 1974. THE 1974 REVIEW INCLUDED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE RES REP AND STAFF, THE MOST AND THE KOREAN ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT. THE REVIEW INCLUDED FOUR PHASES: (1) PREPARATORY, INCLUDING DECISIONS ON PURPOSE, TIMING, INTENSITY AND

PARTICIPATION; (2) FACT-FINDING AND EVALUATION, INCLUDING AN ANALYTICAL EXAMINATION OF ALL PROJECTS; (3) REFORMULATION, INCLUDING ASSESSMENTS AND PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS; AND (4) FORMAL ANNUAL COUNTRY REVIEW.

TWO MAJOR ISSUES EMERGED FROM THE REVIEW: FIRST, THE DELIVERY RATE OF UN INPUTS AGAINST COMMITMENTS WAS APPROXIMATELY 65 PERCENT; AND SECOND, ONLY 39 PERCENT OF THE DOLS. FIFTEEN MILLION PROGRAM HAD BEEN EXPENDED DURING THE FIRST TWO AND A HALF YEARS OF THE FIVE YEAR PROGRAM (1972-76). REASONS FOR THE LOW DELIVERY RATE DURING 1973-74 INCLUDED: (1) DELAYS BY AGENCIES IN THE RECRUITMENT OF PROJECT MANAGERS; (2) DELAYS IN THE ORDERING AND DELIVERING OF EQUIPMENT; (3) DELAYS IN FINALIZING SUBCONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS; (4) INORDINATE TIME TAKEN IN THE ROKG'S SELECTION AND PROCESSING OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIPS AND IN AGENCY PLACEMENT; AND (5) THE TIME TAKEN BY THE ROKG AND UN AGENCIES IN PROCESSING AND CLEARING PROJECT REVISIONS. HOWEVER, MEASURES WERE TAKEN IN 1974 TO INCREASE THE DELIVERY OF UN INPUTS. EFFORTS WERE TAKEN TO ADVANCE THE SCHEDULED ORDERING OF EQUIPMENT; PROJECTS WHICH WERE APPROVED IN EARLY 1974 WERE REARRANGED ACCORDINGLY. THIS HELPED TO LINK EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES TO THE ARRIVAL OF EXPERTS. EFFORTS WERE ALSO MADE TO FORMULATE AND FINALIZE PROJECTS PROGRAMMED FOR 1974 AND 1975. CONSIDERATION WAS ALSO GIVEN TO BRINGING FORWARD THE REMAINING PIPELINE PROJECTS WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR 1976. IN ADDITION, CONTINUOUS FOLLOW-UP WITH THE UN AGENCIES FOR EFFECTIVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WAS INITIATED. FINALLY, PRESSURE WAS PLACED UPON PROJECT MANAGERS AND ROKG COOPERATING AGENCIES TO IMPROVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. TO BALANCE EXPENDITURES, ACTION WAS TAKEN DURING THE 1974 REVIEW TO GIVE PRIORITY TO PROJECTS WITH A POTENTIAL FOR QUICK DELIVERY.

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(E) THE MISSION MAINTAINS CONTINUING LIAISON WITH THE RES REP AND STAFF. IN REGARD TO NEW UNDP PROJECTS, A SYSTEM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WHEREBY THE USAID IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC COMMENTS REGARDING THESE PROJECTS TO THE RES REP. THESE COMMENTS ARE, IN TURN, TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION DURING THE UNDP'S REVIEW OF NEW PROJECT UNDERTAKINGS. IN ADDITION, USAID HAS MADE IT A PRACTICE TO BRIEF THE RES REP AND SENIOR STAFF ON THE ANNUAL AID PROGRAM. IN TURN, UNDP HAS INVITED USAID TO REVIEW ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRAMS AND TO PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL PROJECT REVIEWS.

(F) NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNDP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ARE IN THE AREAS OF PHYSICAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE
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DEVELOPMENT WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE ROKG'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. IN THE AREA OF PHYSICAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, THE UPLANDS DEVELOPMENT AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT IS AN EXAMPLE. THIS PROJECT WAS INITIATED TO DEVELOP THE PHYSICAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES OF THE UNDERUTILIZED UPLANDS AND WATERSHED AREAS. SPECIFIC PROJECT ACTIVITIES HAVE INCLUDED WATER MANAGEMENT CONSTRUCTION, PADDY REARRANGEMENT, LAND CONVERSION AND BENCH TERRACING, PASTURE AND RANGE DEVELOPMENT AID INLAND FISH

FARMING. A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UNIT HAS ENGAGED IN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF RURAL LIFE. THE IBRD HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PROVIDING INVESTMENT ON THE BASIS OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY BEING CONDUCTED THROUGH THIS PROJECT. IBRD APPRAISAL OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1975.

THE STRENGTHENING PLANT PROTECTION RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROJECT HAS ASSISTED THE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (IAS) IN IMPROVING ITS PLANT PROTECTION ACTIVITIES IN THE AREAS OF PLANT PATHOLOGY, ENTOMOLOGY, PESTICIDE RESIDUES AND RODENT CONTROL. THIS PROJECT HAS PROVIDED DATA AND TRAINED COUNTERPART STAFF WHICH WILL BE COMPLIMENTARY TO AND UTILIZED BY THE AID DOLS. FIVE MILLION AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH LOAN.

BOTH THE ABOVE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED AT VARIOUS STAGES BY A TEMPORARY LACK OF BUDGETARY SUPPORT. HOWEVER, IN BOTH PROJECTS COUNTERPART BUDGETS HAVE BEEN REINSTATED TO AN ADEQUATE LEVEL TO ENABLE PROJECT ACTIVITIES TO CONTINUE.

IN ADDITION TO THE BUDGETARY PROBLEM NOTED ABOVE AND THOSE NOTED IN PARA ONE (D), OTHER GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS INCLUDED:

(1) ROKG DIFFICULTIES IN PROVIDING COUNTERPARTS WITH EITHER SATISFACTORY ENGLISH OR TECHNICAL SKILLS;

(2) LOSS OF TRAINED PERSONNEL DUE TO TRANSFERS AND RESIGNATIONS DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION;

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(3) COUNTERPART AGENCY DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING CANDIDATES WITH SUFFICIENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND SOMETIMES TECHNICAL SKILLS FOR OVERSEAS TRAINING; AND

(4) DIFFICULTIES IN PROVIDING PERSONNEL WHO HAVE ADEQUATE ENGLISH COMPETENCE AND SECRETARIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUND DUE TO GENERALLY LOW GOVERNMENT SALARY SCALES.

THESE PROBLEMS WERE LARGELY RESOLVED BY VISITING MISSIONS AND BY ONGOING ACTIONS OF THE ROKG AND UNDP FIELD OFFICE IN CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENT ADVISORS.

ALLOWANCES APPEAR SUFFICIENT AND, WITH THE BACKSTOPPING PROVIDED BY THE UNDP OFFICE IN SEOUL, ADEQUATE HOUSING IS AVAILABLE, THUS THESE APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON UNDP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

(G) IN REGARD TO THE TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM SEE
PARA ONE (D). THE RES REP'S ANNUAL REPORT IS AN EFFECTIVE
SUMMARY OF ANNUAL UNDP ACTIVITIES CONTAINING CANDID
ANALYSES OF CURRENT PROBLEMS AND ACTIONS TAKEN OR TO BE
TAKEN TO ADDRESS THESE.

(H) THE UNDP AND OTHER UN AGENCIES CURRENTLY HAVE
NO PROJECTS DESIGNED TO SPECIFICALLY IMPACT ON WOMEN.
HOWEVER, THE UNDP STAFF ARE SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEMS OF
WOMEN IN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND WOULD, AS OPPORTUNITIES DEVELOP, GIVE CONSIDERATION
TO NEW INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA.

(I) WITH THE CURRENT US AND UN EMPHASIS ON WOMEN'S
ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IT MAY BE WORTHWHILE TO
SEEK AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC FUNDING SOURCES AVAILABLE WITHIN
THE UN SYSTEM TO ACTIVELY ADDRESS ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA.
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